

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 SIL-01 LAB-01 EB-03 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7406

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMVASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9543

LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG

SUBJ: YEAR-END CONVERSATION WITH ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

1. SUMMARY. IN END OF YEAR DISCUSSION WLTH LABATT ILO/DG
BLANCHARD MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) ARAB WORKER MEMBERS
OF ILO GOVERNING BODY HAVE ASKED HIM TO "WRITE FINAL CHAPTER"
ON CONFERENCE RESOLUTION (JUNE 74) CONCERNING CONDITIONS
OF ARAB WORKERS IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
WHEN HE REPORTS TO FEB SESSION OF GB; (2) BLANCHARD
WILL BE IN US FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS IN LATE JAN AND FEB
AND INTENDS TO UNVEIL OUTLINE OF ILO LONG-TERM PROGRAM
(1978-83) AND TO EMPHASIZE NEED TO USE EXISTING ILO
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MACHINERY FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN AND TRADE

UNION RIGHTS; (3) BLANCHARD FEARS THAT COINCIDENCE OF GOVERNING BODY SESSION AND MEETING OF OECD LABOR MINISTERS WILL NOT PERMIT HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON ILO BY INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HE HAD BEEN HOPING FOR. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE-AT 6TH SESSION OF AFRICAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN LOME (DEC 1-12) ARAB MEMBERS OF ILO GOVERNING BODY (INCLUDING MAKLOUF OF TUNISIA) ASKED BLANCHARD TO "WRITE FINAL CHAPTER" ON FOLLOWUP OF JUNE 74 RESOLUTION ON CONDITION OF ARAB WORKERS IN ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BLANCHARD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD WRITE "A" CHAPTER BUT IF IT WAS FOLLOWED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL OR CALLING FOR ITS EXPULSION FROM ILO, THAT CONFERENCE WOULD "A MESS" AND BOTH "ILO AND YOU" (ARAB INTERESTS IN ILO) WOULD BE DESTROYED. MAKLOUF AND OTHERS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD THIS BUT THAT BLANCHARD'S REPORT TO GB IN FEB "MUST BE GOOD", HINTING THAT IF IT WERE, THERE WOULD BE NO EMOTIONAL RESOLUTIONS IN JUNE. BLANCHARD INTENDS TO VISIT EGYPT IN MARCH, AFTER THE GB SESSION.

3. US-ILO RELATIONS-A NUMBER OF AFRICANS (UNNAMED) TOLD BLANCHARD IN LOME THAT US CRITICISM OF THE EROSION OF TRIPARTITISM IN ILO "IS AN ATTACK ON US". AT PRESENT INDEPENDENT LABOR MOVEMENTS AND TRULY TRIPARTITE DELEGATIONS WERE NOT POSSIBLE IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES; CRITICISM AT THIS POINT WOULD SERVE TO HARDEN POSITIONS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AGAINST TRIPARTISM INSTEAD OF ALLOWING IT TO REMAIN AS A DISTANT BUT EVENTUALLY ATTAINABLE GOAL.

4. VISIT TO US-BLANCHARD WILL BE IN US AT END OF JAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR AT ARDEN HOUSE AND INFORUM SPONSORED BY COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS (BOTH IN WEEK OF FEB 1). DURING LATTER FORUM, BLANCHARD WILL REVEAL OUTLINES OF ILO PROGRAM FOR 1978-83 AND WILL ALSO EMPHASIZE PRESENT NEED TO UTILIZE EXISTING ILO MACHINERY TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS BEFORE CONDEMNING MEMBER NATIONS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLEGED VIOLATIONS. BLANCHARD SAID IRVING BROWN, US WORKER MEMBER OF GB WAS ARRANGING APPOINTMENT WITH GEORGE MEANY, AND THAT HE INTENDED TO INVITE MEANY TO PRIVATE LUNCH. HE WILL ALSO MEET WITH CHARLES SMITH, US EMPLOYER MEMBER.

5. WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE-FINAL VERSION OF BASIC CONFERENCE PAPER NOW BEING DRAFTED; BLANCHARD AND SENIOR

ADVISORS WILL DO FIRST REVIEW OF PAPER IN MID-JANUARY.
FINAL TEXT (ENGLISH ONLY) WILL BE READY IN MID-FEB
FOR GOVERNING BODY SESSION. BLANCHARD HAS ORDERED
EMMERIJ TO INCORPORATE CRITICISMS RECEIVED DURING
CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND LABOR AND
EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, BUT ALLOWED THAT IT WILL NOT BE
EASY "TO SIT" ON EMMERIJ.

6. MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS-AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY,
BLANCHARD HAS SUGGESTED THAT CERTAIN OECD LABOR
MINISTERS CONSULT INFORMALY AND PRIVATELY DURING OECD
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN FIRST WEEK OF MARCH. HE NOW
FEARS THIS MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE IT COINCIDES WITH
ILO GOVERNING BODY SESSION. SINCE MINISTERS MAY BE
CONSULTING ON WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, WE
WOULD HOPE MINISTERS COULD ARRANGE MEETING TO INCLUDE
OTHER ILO MATTER AND IN WAY THAT WOULD PERMIT BLANCHARD
TO ATTEND, EVEN IF THIS MEANT EVENING SESSION.

7. COMMENT: BLANCHARD IS HINTING THAT A SCENARIO MAY
BE POSSIBLE IN ILO ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE IN WHICH MODERATE
ARABS LIKE MAKLOUF AND GHARIB OF EGYPT WOULD
PLAN AN IMPORTANT ROLE. IT WOULD SERVE US INTERESTS IF
THE MISSION COULD LET HIM KNOW ASAP WHAT OUR CONSTRAINTS
AND INTERESTS ARE. HIS TRIP TO THE US OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO BRIEF HIM IN DEPTH AT HIGH LEVELS. WE SUGGEST THIS BE
DONE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS
AND THAT BLANCHARD ALSO MEET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL.
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